

Remarks

Elections/Restrictions

Non-elected claims 4-8 have been cancelled.

Specification

The specification has been amended in order to indicate that Application No. 09/6630,403 is now U.S. Patent no. 6,605,112.

Claims Objections

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended in order to address certain informalities identified by the Examiner. Attorney for Applicants is appreciative of the changes to these claims suggested by the Examiner.

112 Rejection

Claim 2 has been amended in order to make clear that the expulsion member is within the inducer. Claim 3 has been amended and the term "flat" has been replaced with language believed to be clearer.

102 Rejection

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended in several respects, and attorney for applicants respectfully submits that, as amended, claims 1 and 2 are distinguishable from Andersen 5,411,552 on the following grounds:

The claimed invention is directed to positioning a plurality of blood flow stoppage elements, the Andersen patent is directed to the placement of a unitary valve prosthesis.

The claimed invention is directed to overlapping proximal ends of collapsed blood flow stoppage elements, the Andersen patent is directed to a unitary valve and does not disclose overlapping the proximal ends of separate blood flow stoppage elements.

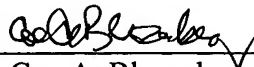
The claimed invention has a plurality of flexible, conical blood flow stoppage elements having memory metal frames that are temperature expanding. Andersen teaches mechanical balloon expansion of a valve prosthesis.

Based on the foregoing arguments and amendments, allowance of claims 1-3 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: July 19, 2005

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